

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

THE HOLY GRAIL, AND OTHER POEMS. By Alfred Tennyson, D. C. L., Poet Laureate, etc. Published by Fields, Osgood & Co. Philadelphia agents: Turner Brothers & Co.

The Arthurian legends have had a powerful fascination for many of the English poets, and although their influence is by no means as great as might have been expected from the peculiar nature of the subject, a desire to elaborate them into a great national English epic appears to have taken possession of many minds.

Milton at an early age conceived the idea of making Arthur the subject of a great epic, and although we have "Paradise Lost" as the result of a change of ideas, it is almost a matter of regret that he did not carry out his original intention.

After Milton, numerous writers have looked into the old romances, drawn inspiration from them, and worked up bits here and there without venturing further; and Bulwer is the only man who has had the temerity to attempt what Milton hesitated to do.

Tennyson remains as the only poet who has made an extensive use of the Arthurian romances, and he has succeeded in creating a revival of interest in them that promises to produce good results.

In addition to the four Arthurian episodes, the volume before us contains seven poems, as follows:—"The Northern Farmer," new style; "The Victim," "Wages," "The Higher Pantheism," "Flowers in the Cranial Wall," "Lucretius," and "The Golden Supper."

The impression left by this volume is that the poet laureate has passed the maturity of his powers, and that while his taste is more refined, his poetical sensibilities are less vivid, and that we have had the best that he is able to give.

speaker, and he tells how Galahad sprang along from pier to pier that stretched into a great sea, and that sprang into fire and vanished as he passed.

"At once I saw him far on the great sea, In shining armor starry clear; And o'er his head the holy vessel hung, Clothed in white samite or a luminous cloud.

The best thing in the book by far, however, is "The Passing of Arthur," the larger portion of which is familiar to every reader of Tennyson, and which he has never surpassed by any subsequent effort.

In looking over these poems it cannot fail to strike any one familiar with the old romance as singular that Mr. Tennyson should have so completely ignored the story of "Tristram and Isolt."

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his Encyclopedia, which brings the work down to the title "Creation."

—The Penn Monthly Magazine is the title of the Alumni of the Pennsylvania University. It is edited by Robert E. Thompson, William W. Newton, and Otis H. Kendall, and contains several interesting and able articles.

—From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received Our Boys and Girls for January 1. —Peter E. Abel sends us from his literary curiosity shop, on Seventh street, above Walnut, "The Autograph of Shakespeare," by George Wise.

—The Western Accommodation Train runs daily, except Sunday. For this train tickets will be prepared by the depot at 11:30 A. M., at No. 116 Market street.

Stopping at all stations between Philadelphia and Wilmington. Leave Philadelphia at 11:00 A. M., 9:30, 5:00, and 7:00 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY. On and after MONDAY, November 1, 1869. Trains will leave as follows, stopping at all stations on Philadelphia, Baltimore Central, and Chester Creek Railroads.

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RAILROAD LINES.

READING RAILROAD.—GREAT TRUNK LINE from Philadelphia to the interior of Pennsylvania, the Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Cumberland, and Wyoming valleys, the North, Northwest, and the Canada.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT. Of Passenger Trains, December 30, 1869. Leaving Philadelphia at 10:00 P. M. for Reading and Calwille stations, Philadelphia, at the following hours:—MORNING ACCOMMODATION.

At 7:30 A. M. for Reading and all intermediate stations; arrives in Philadelphia at 9:25 P. M. MORNING EXPRESS. At 8:15 A. M. for Reading, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pine Grove, Tamaqua, Sunbury, Williamsport, Elmira, Rochester, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Hagerstown, etc.

At 7:30 A. M. for Reading, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pine Grove, Tamaqua, Sunbury, Williamsport, Elmira, Rochester, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Hagerstown, etc.

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RAILROAD LINES.

1869.—FOR NEW YORK.—THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY AND PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANIES LINES FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK.

FROM WALNUT STREET WHARF. At 6:00 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Accom. 8:25 A. M. via Camden and Jersey City. 8:30 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Express. 8:40 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Express. 8:50 A. M. via Camden and Amboy Express.

FROM KENSINGTON DEPOT. At 7:30 A. M. for Trenton and Bristol, and 9:45 A. M. for Bristol. At 7:30 A. M. for Morrisville and Tullytown.

FROM MARKET STREET FERRY (UPPER SIDE). At 7:00 A. M. for Philadelphia, Trenton, and Camden. At 7:30 A. M. for Philadelphia, Trenton, and Camden.

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ABSTION SALES.

M. THOMAS & SONS, NOB. 138 AND 141 S. 4TH STREET. Sale at the Auction Rooms, Nos. 138 and 141 S. Fourth Street.

At 9 o'clock, at the auction rooms, by catalogue, a large assortment of superior household furniture, consisting of three walnut parlor suits, covered with plush, rep. and hair cloth; three walnut chamber suits; cottage chairs; china and glassware; superior office furniture; two superior fire-proof safes, made by Evans & Wallace and Parrot & Herring; gas-consuming and cooking stoves; platform scales; sewing machines; chandeliers; vases; bronzes, and other carpets, etc.

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